1607.

A true report of certaine wonderfull ouerflowings of Waters, now lately in Summerset-shire, Norfolke, and other places of England: destroying many thousands of men, women, and children, ouerthrowing and bearing downe whole townes and villages, and drowning infinite numbers of sheepe and other Cattle.

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BRITISH
MUSEUM

To the Reader.

Eader I haue to these late accidents (whereby some parts of this our kingdom haue bin punnished) added some other, that happned in the yeare 1570. to the intent that by comparing the one with the other, Gods Iustice and mercy may both be seene: If those Waters of his wrathe (powred downe then,) we are more cruell then these. It is a signe (and a comfort let it bee vnto vs) that he doth but stil threaten & shake the rod, for no doubt but our faults at this time are as great as in those daies: If this affliction laide vppon our Countrey now, bee sharper than that before, make vse of it: tremble, be fore-warned, Amend, least a more feareful punishment, and a longer whip of correction draw blood of vs.

Farewell.

To the Reader.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Newes out of Sum-

merſet ſhire.

(.*.)

ALbeit that theſe ſwellings vp and ouerflowings of waters proceed from natural cauſes, yet are they the very diſeaſes and monſtrous byrthes of nature, ſent into the woꝛld to terrifie it, and to put it in mind, ỹ the great God, (who holdeth ſtoꝛmes in the pꝛiſon of the Cloudes at his pleaſure, and can enlarge them to bꝛeed diſoꝛder on the Earth when he growes angry) can aſwell now dꝛowne all mankind as he did at the firſt: But ỹ by theſe gentle warnings, he would rather haue vs come vnto him, and flye from the points of moꝛe deadly Arrowes of vengeance, than vtterly to periſh. Hee fits out the meaſures of his chaſtiſement acꝯoꝛding to the quality and pꝛopoꝛtion of our ofꝯfences: foꝛ as the waters tranſgreſſe and bꝛeak their bounds, to the deſtruction of the fruites of the earth and to the taking away of the liues of man and beaſt.

So haue we that should bee subiects to the Almighty King, and (by our oath of Christianity) ought and are bound to paye fealty & allegiance to our Lord and Master, gone beyond the bankes and limits of all obedience, to ỹ taking away of his loue, without which we cannot liue, and to the vnrecouerable vndoing of our owne selues.

Sinne ouerflowes our soules: the Seas of all strange impieties haue rusht in vppon vs: we are coured with the waues of abhomination and vncleannes: we are drowned in the black puddles of hellish iniquity: wee swim vp to the throates, nay euen aboue the chins in Couetousnes, in extortion, in sensuality, in enuy one against ỹ other, in contempt of our Maiestrates, in neglect of our lawes, and in violation of those diuine statutes, the breach of which is a condemnation to death and that Death, and euerlasting liuing in Hels fire.

Many a time haue we bin summoned to an account for these riotous abuses & misse-spending the talents put into our hands, we haue shifted it off with counterfet for-row for what wee haue done, and with promises to become faithfull seruants, and new men; yet grow we worse at noone, than we were at ỹ suns rising, and at his going down he blusheth to behold vs in our nautines. To a strict & strange audite therfore doth God not only cal some of our countrymen now on ỹ sodeyn) but also to affright vs the more to make vs

looke

look about, doth he strike our Cattle with di-
seases: he takes away the liues of our beasts
fit for labor: he destroies the Corne-fields,
& threatens vs with famine: he vndermines
our houses with tempests, to make vs feare
a desolation. Read therefore, and reade with
trembling these his late dreadful iudgmẽts,
mocke not our selues with vaine hopes, but
know that if earthly fathers may be drawne
away to forget their owne children, our hea-
uenly father may by the vilenes of our soules
be drawne to shake off his own people. Listen
then how he menaceth, and stand amazed at
the wonders of his wrath.

In January last (towards the end of the
moneth,) the sea at a flowing wate rmeeting
with Land-floudes, strone so violently toge-
ther, that bearing downe all thinges ꝑ were
builded to withstand and hinder the force of
them, the bankes were eaten through and a
rupture made into Somerset-shire. No sooner
was this furious inuader entred, but he got
vp hie into the Land, and encountring with
the riuer Seuern, they both build in such pride
that many Miles, (to the quantity of xx. in
length, and 4. or 5. at least in bredth) were in a
short time swallowed vp in this torrent. This
Inundation began in the morning, & within
few houres after, couered the face of ꝑ earth
thereabouts (that lay within the distance be-
fore named) to the deapth of xi. or xii. foot in
some places, in others more. The daunger ꝑ
this terible tempest brought vp it; wrought

much

much feare in the harts of all that stood within the reach of it, but ỹ soden and strange cruelty of it, bred the greater terror and amazement. Men that were going to their labours were compelled (seeing so dreadfull an enemy approching) to flye backe to their houses, yet before they could enter, death stood at the doores ready to receiue them. In a short tyme did whole villages stand like Ilands (compassed rounde with Waters) and in a more short time were those Ilands vndiscouerable, and no where to be found. The tops of trees and houses onely appeared (especially there where the Countrey lay lowe,) as if at the beginning of the world townes had been builte in the bottome of the Sea, and that people had plaide the husbandmen vnder the Waters.

Who would not haue thought this had bin a second Deluge! for (at one time these inhabited places were sunke cleane out of sight. Hunsfelde (a Market Towne in the sayde Shire) was quite drowned. Grantham a village vtterly ouer-flowne. Kenhouse another village couered all ouer. Kingson a third village likewise lies buried in salt water. So (besides other small cottages standing in valies) is Brian Downe a Village quite consumed. Adde vnto these peopled places, the losse of Warbes, Corne-fieldes, Pastures, Meddowes, and so forth, more then can bee numbred: the misery of it no man can Expresse.

In

In this euill warres betweene the Land and the Sea, many men, women, and Children, lost their liues: to saue which, some climbed vppe to the tops of the houses, but the rage of the mercyles tide grew so strong, ỹ in many, yea most of the Villages aforenamed, the Foundations of the buildings being washed away, the whole frame fell down, and they dyed in the waters: Others got vp into trees, but the trees had their rootes vnfastened by the selfe-same destroyer, that disioynted barnes and houses, and their last refuge was patiently to die.

A lamentable spectacle was it, to beholde whole heards of Cattle, struggling for life with the flouds, Oxen in great numbers were caryed away with the streame, and looked like so many Whales in ỹ Sea: their bellowing made a noise in the water as if it had bin a tempest, and that ỹ Sea had roared. The flocks of Sheep that are vtterly destroied by this Land-wracke are innumerable, none knowes the losse for the present but the owners of them: But the whole land wil I feare feele the smart.

A number of most strange shapes of daunger did this monstrous byrth of waters bring forth: of which (for the rarenes) I will set downe some, and none but those that are true. There was a poore Man (a Houlholder) dwelling in one of the Villages aforenamed, heaing seauen Children: who (in this generall perill) not knowing howe to bestirre himselfe, was desirous to saue so much of his goods as possibly hee could: But the violence of the streame multiplying more and more

vpon him: It came into his minde to prouide rather for his Children: his goodes therefore hee left to the mercy of that which hath no mercy, and louing one of his Children aboue all the rest, hys feare draue him to run about for the safety of that onely. At last the danger that had rounde about (and within doores) set vpon him and his family, was so great, that hee could neither defend that his dearest Childe, nor the rest, but hauing much ado to get life for himselfe, hee left them and hys whole houshold perishing in the torrent, he getting vp to the top of the house, and so escaping. An infant likewise was found swimming in a Cradle, some mile or two frõ ỹ place where it was knowen to be kept, and so was preserued, for the Cradle was not of wicker as ours are here, but of strong thicke boordes, closely ioynted together, & that saued the infants life. The ricks of pease in diuers places being vndermined at the bottomes, were lifted vp mainely from the ground, and swum vp & downe in the whole bulke, amongst which a cõpany of Hogs, and Pigs, being feeding vpon one of the ricks, and perceiuing it to go away more & more frõ thẽ, they got vp to ỹ top, and there maintained thẽ in eating. Nay which is more strange, conies in great numbers being driuen out of their borroughes by the tyde, were seene to sit for safety on the backs of sheepe, as they swom vp & down and at last were drowned with them.

A poore shepheard likewise being in the fielde, some of his sheepe were strayed from the rest, when the waters began to come in vpon the Countrey, which he perceiuing, ran with all speede to fetche

them,

them in, hoping to saue al: but before he had done, hauing much ado to saue himselfe, he was fayne to leaue them, and with his bag & bolte, to climb vp into a tree: there hee saw the confusion of hys whole flock: they swom too and fro bleating for helpe, he satte tearing his hayre and beating his brests; crying mainly out but could not saue thē: when they were all slaine before his eies, he wept then more bitterly to thinke vpon his owne tragedy which he saw was now to be acted: he feared drowning, yet hee feared starving more then drowning: he had some victuals with him in the tree: but he knew not how long this siege of waters woulde keepe him in that rotten bulwarke. At length (when he was almost pincht to Death with cold) hee espyed a boat which the Country had sent out to saue others, to that he called, and in that recouered life.

Bristow.

NOw bend your eies vpon the Citty of Bristowe, and there beholde as much cause of lamentation as in any place of this realme, that hath tasted of the like misery. In the selfe same Moneth of Ianuary, and much about ỹ very day, did an arm of the North seas breake in (at a spring tide) which ouerflowed not onely the banckes, but almost all the whole Country round about.

All Brent-Marsh is couered ouer: betweene

Barstable and Bristow the Sea swelled vp as hye as Bridgewater. All the low grounds are not onely hidden w^th this strange deluge, but in danger (by the opinion of men) to be vtterly lost. Whole houses were remoued from the grounde where they stood, and float vp and downe like shippes (halfe sunke.)

Their Corne-mowes and hay-mowes are caryed away with the streame and can neuer be recouered. All theyr fat Oxen that could not swim are drowned: with such a forcible assault did the Waters set vpon the inhabitants, that they who were in theyr houses, and thought themselues safest, could hardly make way for theyr owns liues: by which meanes a number both of men, women, and children perished: theyr deade bodies floate hourely aboue-water, and are continually taken vppe: It cannot yet be knowne, howe manye haue fell in this Tempest of Gods fearful iudgement.

Most of the goodes both of Cittizens heere in London that were sent thither, and of the inhabitants dwelling there, as also the Rugs & such other commodity which came from Irelande, to the fayre of Saint Paule, which was now to bee kepte there, are (to an infinite value, and to the daunger of many a mans vndoing) vtterly spoiled and cast away. Goods in dry-fats, and whole packes of Wares are daily taken vp, but past all recouery euer to bee good againe. This deluge hath couered this part of the country by the space of ten miles ouer in length, at least vppe towards Bridgewater. Many thousands of pounds cannot

make

make goods the losse which the Countrey onely hath hereby receiued. God graunt there ensue no second misery vpon this, worse to our Kingdome, than this Plague of Waters.

The miraculous deliuery of a Gentleman from death when it had round beset him in the midst of the waters.

A Gentleman dwelling within foure miles of the sea (betwixt Barstable & Bristow) walking forth one morning to view his grounds, cast vppe his eyes toward the Sea-coast, and on the sudden was struck into a strange amazemẽt, for he beheld an extraordinary swallowing vppe of all the earth, that had wont to lye visible and leuell to his sight: he coulde scarce tell certainely whether he stood vpon the ground which he was sure the day before was his owne: Hils, and valies, Woods, and Meddowes seemed al to be either remoued, or to be buried in the Sea: for the Waters a farre off stood to his iudgement many yards aboue the earth: he tooke them at first for Mountaines and heapes of clouds, but feare being driuen backe (with a courage and desire in him to saue himselfe from this imminent daunger) home comes hee with all speede that he coulde to his owne dwelling: relates to his wife what hee had seene, and the assured perill that was preparing to set vppon them, and (with all) Counsels her and his whole Family to bestirre themselues, and to gette (with such prouision and Goodes as they coulde easily conuay away) higher vppe in-

to the Country, to some one of his friendes. All hands presently layd about them, (as if that enymies had bin marching to beseidge the Towne) to trusse vp what they could and be gone.

And beholde, how swift is mischiefe when God driues it before him to the punishment of the World: All were laboring to beare away some of the goods, but before their burdens could bee taken vp, they were compeld to leaue them, and to look about for their liues. The fardels which they had bound vp to saue from drowning, some of them were glad to leap vppon to escape drowning themselues.

The Gentleman with his Wife and Children got vp to the highest building of the house: there sat hee and they vppon two rafters, comforting one another in this misery, when their hartes within them were euen dead to themselues from all comfort: they now cared not for their wealth, so they might but go away with their liues: and yet euen that very desire of life, put him in mynde to preserue something, by which afterward they might liue, and that was a Box of Writinges, wherein were certaine bonds, and all the euidences of his Landes: this Box he got, with the hard aduenture of much daunger: he tyed it with cordes fast to a rafter, hoping what wracke soeuer should ouerthrowe the rest of his substance, his mayne estate should bee found safe, and come to shore in that hauen.

But alas in the midst of this sorrofull gladnesse, the Sea fell with such violence vpon the house, that

it boze abbay the vbhole building, rent it in the middle from top to bottom, they that could not get vp to the highest roomes, vbere put to a dou=ble death, dzobbning and bzayning. In this stozme the Hulband and Wife lost one another: the Childzen and Parents were parted: the Gen=tleman in this whirle=wind of Waues, being foz=ced from his hold, got to a beame, sat vpon that, and against his will rode post some thzée oz foure Miles, till at length encountring with the side of a hill, (of which lighting place hee was ioyfull) there he crept vp, and holding notwithstanding his safety still in his hand: there sat he inuiron'd with death, miserably powzing out teares to in=crease ỹ waters, which were already too aboun=dant: and to make him desperate in his sozrowes, the tirranous streame pzesented vnto him the Tragedy of his deere Wife, and deerest childzen, She, they, and his Seruants were whozried to their deaths by the tozrent befoze his face, & dzow=ned doubly, in his teares, and in the waues. Yet because he should not be altogether the onely slaue of misfoztune in this Sea=fight, noz be moze tri=umphed ouer then others that fell in the battaile. At length (a little to fetch life into him which was vpon departing) he spyed his Boze of wzitinges (bound as they were to the rafter) come floating towardes him: that he ventured once againe to saue, and did so, and in the end most myracu=lously came off likewise with his owne life.

Of

Of another Gentleman, that hauing a voyage to make on horſe-backe, ended it riding after a ſtrange manner.

There was another Gentlemanne in the ſame Countrey likewiſe, who being newlie married, determined one morning to take his Gelding, and to ride forth to a Towne not many miles diſtãt from his owne dwelling, there to bee merrie: his horſſe for that purpoſe ſtood readie ſadled and bridled, he himſelfe had drawne on one of his Boots, but before he could ſit his Legge to the other, the winde came about, the point of his compaſſe was changed, his voyage by Lande was to bee made by Water, or elſe not at al. For the Sea had ſo begyrt the houſe, broken in, lifted of the doores from their hynges, ran vppe into all the Chambers, and with ſo dreadful a noyſe tooke poſſeſſion of euerie Roome, that he ỹ was al this while but half a horſeman, truſted more to his owne legges than to the ſwiftnes of his Gelding.

Vppe therefore he mounts to the very top of all the houſe, the waters purſued him thither, which he perceiuing, got aſtride ouer the Ridge and there reſolued to ſaue his life, but Neptune belike purpoſing to try how wel he could ride, cut of the maine building by the middle, leauing the vpper part ſwimming like a Flemmish Boy in foule weather.

The Gentleman beeing driuen to goe what pace that would carry him which hee ſate vppon, helde faſt

fast by the Tiles, and such things as he could best lay hold on, and in this foule weather, came he at length (neither on Horse-backe, nor on foote, nor in a Vessell fit for the water) to the very Towne, where in the morning hee meant to take vp his Inne.

A number of these strange Tragi-comicall Scenes haue been acted vpon this large Stage of waters: It would swell into a Massie Volume to Chronicle them all: let these therefore which I haue deliuered vnto you, bee sufficient, as a tast of Gods Iudgements: these are ynough to make you know hee is angry, let them likewise be inough to make vs studie how to allay his anger.

Adde vnto these, the ouerflowings in Herefordshire, Glocester Shire, and in diuers Shires in Wales, bordering vppon the Sea, where many liues haue beene lost, both of Man and Beast: of all which when the particulars are truely knowne, they shall bee truely published to our Countrey: till then make vse of these.

Norfolke.

NOr let other Countreys insult ouer this: as if their robes of seeming puritie (inuented by the Diuell and his Journey-men) were a defence or Armour of proofe against the Iudgements of Heauen: they stand all within distance, this late and fearefull Inundation of water makes it apparant.

For iuſt the ſame month of the yeare, weeke of the month, and almoſt day of the ſame weeke, In the Countrey of Norfolke, not farre from Kings Lyn, in a place called March-land, happened accidents, though not altogether ſo violent and mortall as thoſe in Summerſetſhire, yet accompanied with much damage, and no little danger. About the xx. of this preſent month of Januarie Anno. Dom. 1607. The cheefe violence of winter, being (as they by many rurall obſeruations had quoted) almoſt ſpent: The Marſhes, & Fens, by reaſon of the yeeres temperature, ſomewhat dry e, and more forward than in other yeares, euerie man to his abilitie, layd out what money hee could ſpare vppon Heifers, and ſuch other young ware, emptying their purſes of Crownes to cram the Fens with Cattell, little thinking the water would haue made one, and like a new Broome haue ſweeped all cleane, as ſhortly it did.

The Fens thus ſtored with Cattell, Horſe, and Bullocks, for it is not vnknowne what hauocke the rot had made with ſheepe in the beginning of Winter, which dyed in ſuch aboundaunce, that euen Dogges grewe weary of them.

The rot hauing begun, and in a manner made an end of Sheep, in comes the water as a ſecond and more violent inuader, and ſweepes away what the rot had left behinde.

It happened vpon a night, for when is danger more wakefull than when preuention ſleepes, and

not

not so much as dreames of his Furie, A couple of Horse-coursers, or to attyre them in a courser litter, Horse-stealers, knowing the night, a gowne to cloake their villanie, came sneaking into the marrish with an intent to make a Market of what was none of their owne. And drave so many of the Cattell as they thought fit vp into the higher grounds: but in the meane time they were hotly pursued with a fearefull Hu and cry, not of Constables, but swifter followers (Viz:) the water, which hauing broken out at an old breach, in a quarter of an houre, or a very little portion of time, ouerflowed the Marsh, and that with such vnresisted violence, ỹ they were enforced to leaue their praye (which such fellowes seldome vse to doe) fal to prayer, and to take them to their heels, and of all the Cattell in that Marrish, (being very many in number) fewe or none were preserued, but those which they had fetched vp with an intent to steale: for being ouertaken, or rather ouerrunne by the swiftnesse of the Water, they were dryuen some into Creekes, some into Bushes, and some vpon little Hillocks, and so either lost, dryuen away with the Water, or in conclusion drowned.

The two good fellowes (against their willes made good) Seeing what present daunger, the water brought in with it, poasted to the Towne whether the Water (had they not made the more hast) had brought the men before them: Rayled the Sexton, got the Keyes of the Church doore,

and (as the custome in such daungers) Jangled the Belles, and with a fearefull outcry, raysed the secure Inhabitantes: who imagining some House to be on fire, rose vppe distractedly in their Shirtes, crying out Water, Water: of which Element (they were no sooner vp,) but they perceiued they had too much: Yet were they still various in their opinions, all fearing, yet none knowing truely what to feare: some got vp to the steeple, many thinking their had been theeus got into the vpper roomes of their Houses, shutting their safeties out, by locking themselues in. Some thinking it had bin but a slight ouerflowing of a spring tyde, laught at the rest.

The truth once knowne, it was no need to byd them make hast: to expresse how amazedly Men ran vp and downe, betwixt sleepe and wake, asking what newes, and receiuing no other answer but what newes, was strange. In a word, in this danger, euery man layed first hands of what he loued best, some made away with his Wife, some his Children, some careles both of Wife and Children, hurried away his goods. Hee that had seen this troublesome nights worke, would haue thought vpon the miserable night of Troy. Here waded one vp to the middle loaded with wealth, when noting how the water increased, and calling to mind his helpless Children, with a sigh as loath to part from what hee so deerely had loued, hee throwes it downe, runs to Bedde, wakens his Wife, and from her sides snatches the sleeping infants.

fants. Here comes a Husband with his wife on his backe, and vnder either arme an Infant. The Sonne carries the Father, the Brother the Sister, the Daughter the Mother, whilest the vnmercifull conqueror breakes downe the walles of the Houles, taking pittie neither of aged nor Sexe, findes some at playe, some a sleepe in Chayers, many in their beddes, that neuer dreamed of misfortune till the Water waked them.

Not to stand long, the Water gaue them but very short warning, yet like a mercifull Conquerour, hauing taken the towne, it gaue them their liues, at least all such as were willing to leaue their goods. Some couetous to haue all, lost all, for striuing to saue their goodes, they lost their liues.

In this night-massacre some few were drowned but their true names and certaine number, is not yet directly knowne. Vp to a hill some halfe myle from the Towne they hasted, where that night, or rather peece of a morning, they reposed themselues.

The next day they might behold their houses wading vp to the middles in Water, some calling for Boates out at windowes, and from the steeples toppe, some swimming vppon plankes, some vppon Fetherbeds, whom as they possibly could, they releeued. Horses that were tyed to the Mangers, at the Mangers were all drowned, such as were loose swimming vp and downe, some

recouered the land, some drowned in striuing to recouer it, whole Barnes of Corne, which the couetous owners horded vp in hope of a dearth, the Water discouered and brought forth. Houshold-stuffe which the night before they packt out of the Houses in hope to haue saued, swamme vp and downe, with drowned people so confusedly mingled, as men could scarse distinguish their goods, nor know their friends.

Nor did the Water thus confine his tyrranie, but ioyning with land Waters that fell from the high groundes, It inuaded two Villages more, but they hauing warning of the Aproch, though not power to withstand it, had time to preuent it, by conuaying all or most part of their goods and Cattell, to the vpland Villages, leauing onelye the emptie houses to the mercy of (that which is sayd to haue no mercy) the water.

Three Townes thus ouerflowed with water, could not but bring much losse to the poore inhabitants, yet to increase it, their corne fields (and not onely these) but all alongst the coast and lowe Marshes of that country, to the number of many thousand Acars in seuerall places and fields are toombd and buried in the huge graue of waters, that like a deuouring gulfe is neuer satisfied.

To this there is for the space of ten or twelue miles compasse Marishes and Fens cleane vnder water. The Cattell fed in those Marshes so sodainely taken, that had they not fled to an Hill, some halfe mile in compasse called Thruchill, few

or

or none of them could haue scaped with life: yet being there, their safety is very daungerous: for this hill being very high and narrowe in the top, is like a Rocke in the Sea, girdled about with water, so deepe, that on foote neither Man nor Beast canne passe it, and yet not deepe enough to beare a Boat, by reason of muddy and old shrubs ỳ grow in it: by reason whereof the poore beasts haue fedde the Hill so bare, as it affordes neither grasse nor wood, and so do their hunger encrease, and sustenance decrease, as they do eate the tops of Molehils, and the very earth it selfe, and with lamentable bellowing complaine, and as it were make moane to their owners, who beeing willing canne by no meanes releeue them. Hee that should see this pittifull famine of Beasts, coulde not (except hee were too leasiall himselfe) but pitty it.

At last they made shift by cutting away through the Shrubs & Bushes, to bring abroad a Ferry Boat to the hill, to which the cattell would swim so thick, ỳ they had much a do to keepe it from sinking, others seeing their fellowes in the Boate, would throw themselues into the water, and like people at a shipwracke, swarme so thicke about them, and offer such mournefull noyses, that pitti-ed ỳ fellowes to heare, the Boat being full, other striuing to swum after them, being weak, for want of sustenance, were drowned at the Boats side.

In pitty whereof, they concluded to fetch noe more of, but in those Boats conuay Hay, and such like fodder, to the Hill, and there feed them: such as

are not too farre spent and gone, by this meanes they hope to recouer, (notwithstanding the best helpe they can apply) they die in great numbers: the sight is to be pitied, the losse greeued at, and the Iudgement to be trembled at. For with it, it brings this fearefull expect of a hard and sharpe dearth. For Corne and Cattell, the two cheefe hopes of bounty taken away, what else can we expect, but a fearefull Ruine, and an ineuitable desolation, which God for his mercies sake auert.

YOu haue all this while been Spectators of others sad and tragicall euents which now (euen by our friends, kinsfolkes, and Countreymen) haue ben presented on the Theater of the world: It shall not be amisse to turne your faces, and to looke backe vpon the head of time that is gone from vs: weigh therefore those miseries that were measured out in the last Queens raigne in the yeare 1570. with these in 1607. and you shall see our punishment greater, because our treason against God is more horrible.

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Bedford

THe 5. of October about mid-night, the Water ouerflowed so much, that men were faine to forsake their beds, and one woman drowned. Where also were lost a great number of Sheepe, Oxen, Kine, Horse, and other Cattell. Amongst other there, one maister Cartwrite Gentleman, hauing his House inclosed round about, the water came in so much, that a Cart being lodē with Thorns, did swim about the ground. He lost by the same Floud, Sheepe and other cattell, to the value of an hundred pound. The same Gentleman had a close gate by the high wayes side, where the water ran ouer so extreamely, that at the fal thereof it made such an hole, that it was forty foot deepe, so that no man could passe that way without great danger. To the filling vp of the layd Hole, or Pit, was cast in by the men of the layd Towne 25. loads of Faggots, and 20 load of Horse-dung, which layd Faggots and Horse-dung filled not vp the hole.

Also one master Lee, at the Freers in Bedford hauing a layre yarde, wherin was great store of Eime-trees, whereof three score were blowne downe, with the rootes pulled cleane out of the grounde. Also he had a close of Conies that were cleane destroyed.

In the Countie of Norfolke.

The Sea brake in betweene Wil-bich and Wallockenne, & at the Crosskeies drowning Tilny, and old Linne, Saint Mary Teding, Saint Mary Tid, S. Johns, Mawple, Walton, & Wallocken, Emney, Jarmans, and Stowt brinke, all being within the spate of terme Myles. At the Crosse-keyes the good man of the Inne had built an house, with a strong Foundation ioyning vnto another House being old and not so strong, wherein were certaine Guests, and when the water came in so violently, the good man of the house beeing in the strouger House, called the men out of the olde House, and they would haue gone downe the stayres, but the water was so high, that they could not get downe, wherefore they went backe againe, and brake an hole into the other House, where they went through, and the last man was no sooner in, but the olde House fell downe. The Walles of the houses were broken downe, and the Horses that were tyed at the Manger, (which was made fast in the ground) did swim in the water, when the Stable was cleane caried away, vntill the waters were assuaged, and were saued aline, and the people were constramed to get vp to the highest parts of the house, and to bee carried away in Boates.

At Yermoth a great part of the Bridge was carried away.

The house vpon the Hauen, called the Hauen-house, wherein was one Nicholas Iosselin, the Hauen man, and his son, with all their tooles was carryed into the Marshes, vi. miles from the Hauen, where it stood vpright, where they cõtinued lõg time without meat or drinke.

Item at Iermans brig street, was very much hurt done by extreame flouds that were there.

Item one Thomas Smith of Yermoth lost a ship, and vii men and a Boy in it.

Item at Newarke by Yermouth were lost vii. Sayle.

Item a greate Hulke loden with Oyle and Pitch, was lost at Wozry Sand, and about xx. men lost therin and xxx. saued by the Hulk boat.

In the Bishoprike of Ely.

These Townes & villages were ouerflowed, that is to say, Wisbich, Guyhorn, Parson, Drove, and Hobshouse. This Hobshouse being an almes house (& the water breaking down the Walles of it) the wind blew the cloathes of from the bed of a poore man and his Wife, they being acold awaked, and sodainely stept out of his Bed to reach vp his Cloths, and stept vp to the belly in water, and then he thinking himselfe to be in danger (as he was indeed), and he knowing the best way to escape the danger of the Water, tooke his wife on his necke and carried her away, and so were both saued.

Item in Wisbich was a Garden, a Tenice play, and a Bowling Ally, walled about with brick (which was worth twentie li. by yeere to the owner) quite destroyed by the water.

Lincolne Shire.

MAnby Chappell the whole towne was lost except three houses.

A ship was driuen vpon an house the Sailers thinking they had bin vpon a Rocke, committed themselues to God, and three of the Marriners leapt out of the ship, and chanced to take holde on the house top, and so saued themselues: and the wife of the same lying in childebed, did clime vp into the top of the house, was also saued by the Marriners, her Husband and Childe being both drowned.

Item the Church was wholy ouerthrone except the steeple.

Betweene Boston and Newcastle were xl. Sea Vessailes, as small Ships, Traiers, and such like, lost vpon the Coasts of Boston, Hummerston, Marshchappell, Tetney, Stepney, Mercots, Kelby, & Grimsby, where no ship can come in without a Pilate, which were all lost with goods, Corne, & cattle, with all the Salt coats, where the chiefe and finest salt was made, were vtterly destroyed, to the vtter vndoing of many a man, and great Lamentation both of old and young.

Westford

Wentford Bridge being very strong of vilt. Arches in length, had iii. of the Arches broken. and cleane carried away.

Maister Smith, at the Swan, there had his house (being iii. stories high,) ouerflowed vnto the third story, and the walles of the stable were broken downe, and the horses tyed to the Manger, were all drowned.

Many men had great losse, aswel of Sheep, Kine, Oxen great Mares, Coltes of the breed of the great horses, and other cattell innumerable, of which, the names of many of them shall here follow.

maister Pellã lost xi C sheep at Wumb chapel.

In Summercote were lost v. C. sheepe that were of the inhabitance there.

Item between Hummerston, and Grimsby were lost xiic. Sheep, of one maister Spencers, whose sheapheard about mid day comming to his wife, and asked his dinner, and shee being more bold then mannerly, sayd he should haue none of her, then he chãced to looke toward the Marshes, where the sheep were, & saw the water breake in so fiercly that the sheepe would be lost if they were not brought from thence, said ŷ he was not a good shepheard, ŷ would not venture his life for his sheepe, & so went straight to driue them frõ thence: both he & his sheep were drowned, and after the water being gone: hee was found dead, standing vpright in a ditch.

Maister Thimbleby, lost CC. xx. sheep.

M. Dimock, lost cccc. sheepe.

M. Marsh, lost ccccc. sheepe.

M. Madison, lost a ship.

M.

M. William Aſtugh of Kelſey, ſir hugh Aſtugh M. Werin M. Fitz Williams of Wapletho̅p loſt by eſtimation xx M of cattell one and other.

Boozn was ouerflowed to the midway of the height of the Church.

Steeping, was wholy carryed away, where was a waine lode of Willow toys, the body of the wain with ẏ willowes, carried one away, & the Axiltree and Wheeles, an other way.

Huntington Shire.

IN the Town of S. Eds, the water flowed into the Town in ſuch abo̅dance, that it ran thzow the Town and the Church, being in ẏ midſt therof, hauing about the Churchyarde a Brick wal, of 2. yardes hie, was ſo ouerflowed that boats were rowed ouer it without touching the ſame. Item a litle kro̅ Huntington, were iii. men riding vpo̅ the Cauſey being then ouerflowed (the water on the Cauſey being not deep and thinking no danger therin) cha̅ced to come into a place wher ẏ water had gulled away the Earth, and the Gzauel, were caried away with the water: and willowes growing on both ſides the way, two of the caught hold on the willowes and left their Hozſes, and ſaued themſelues, and the third chanced to catch a very little twig of a Willow betweene his fingers, hauing very litle hold, forſaking his hozſe, which was carried a great way from him, had much paine to keep his hold on the twig, and hold his head aboue the water, & his Hozſe returning with hozce againſt the ſtreame, came againe vnto him, and vnder him.

him, by which meanes he set his feet vpon him, and gat better hold of the Willow, and so saued himselfe, and the Horse was immediatly carried away, that he neuer saw him after.

Kent.

AT Broom Hill, in Romney Marsh, foure miles from Rye, the water came in so outragiously, that it brake downe the Marsh Wals, one Walter Bury, being owner thereof, who lost by the same a thousand one hundred threescore and two of his sheepe, & it is thought that the Marsh is neuer like to be gotte again.

Item, at Erith breach, a Mariner riding by the Marshes, seeing two maids in the marshes perceiuing the Waters breaking in so fast, that the Maides were not like to escape, rode vnto them, & one of them gat vp behind him, and the other tooke hold on the Horse-taile, and by that were both saued from drowning.

In the same Marsh were drowned a great number of sheepe.

Item, there in a Marsh land ✠ was towne, were two Boyes keeping Crowes, in the afternoone, saw the water breaking in so rabbly, gat them vp into a cart, that was not far off them, where they were fain to tarry vntill Sunset rode, which came in so boystrously, that it had like to ouerthrow both the Cart and the Boyes, and the one of them being more stronger then the other, kept the other in his armes, where he with cold, wet and feare, dyed, so that he was fame to let him fall from him into the water, when he perceiued that he was past recouery.

The conclusion to the Booke.

THou Reader dost thou behold the wounds of thy bleeding Countrie: the stripes of thy stone sonde hath stroken to the heart: there can be no better phisitian than thine own amendment: prepare thy receiptes therefore, least this mother of thine (and of many Millions more) fall sicke to the death. It is to be feared that this swelling of Waters in the wombe of this our beautifull kingdom, will ingender more strange and more miserable diseases, and infect the whole Nation. The earth by this watring is likely to growe barren, & amine (in stead of fruit) both threatneth to growe to our ribs: We must eate the bread of sorrow, and drinke our owne teares in stead of wine. Cast up thine eyes therefore, and lift thy hands to the indgement seate of heaven, and with inflamed zeale strive not [illegible] with the shewers of the Divine [illegible] Do now resigne upon our heads our sinnes [illegible] sleepe in the bottome of the cloudes [illegible] in the depth of Gods Judgements. Farewell.

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